

State and Conservation 15-2021

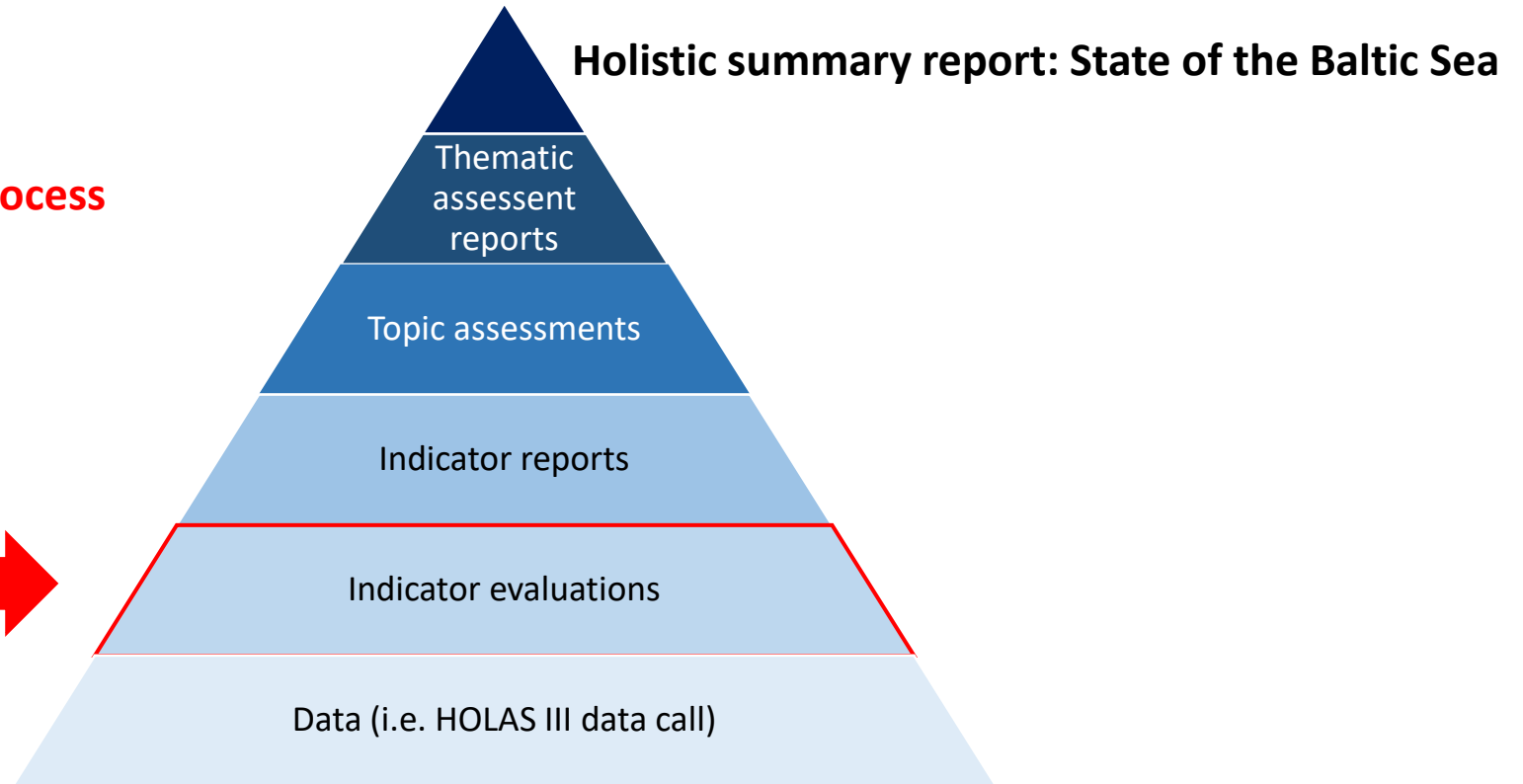
Indicators and assessments towards HOLAS III



Conceptual overview of the HOLAS III assessment structure and the progressive integration of results.

***also sent to HOD for threshold value process**

Red outline will show where in the scheme the current slide is addressing – e.g. ‘indicator evaluations’.

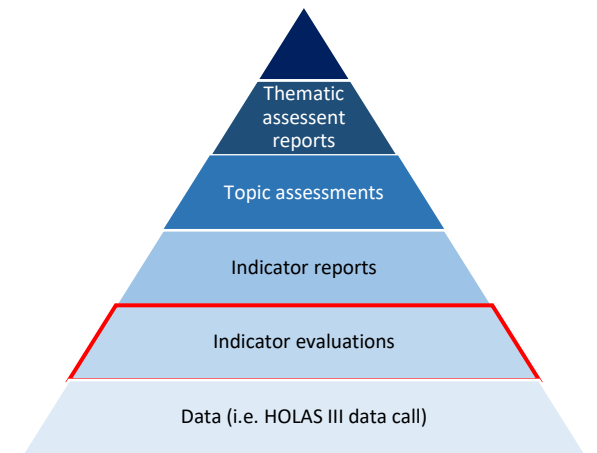


Benthic habitats



Cumulative impact *from physical pressures* on benthic biotopes

- ***Cumulative impact *from physical pressures* on benthic biotopes (CumI) - Document 3J.23**
- Proposed new name: “Cumulative impact **from physical pressures** on benthic biotopes”.
- Scale of assessment – Scale 2.
- Application across whole Baltic Sea region.
- Comprehensive risk-based evaluation of the potential impact on benthic biotopes as a result of the presence of human activities.
- 6 final disturbance ‘status’ categories into which the indicator results fall.
- Division between low and moderate categories within the indicator result categories (Impact intersection matrix).
- Endorsed by EN BENTHIC 7-2021.



State and Conservation - Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

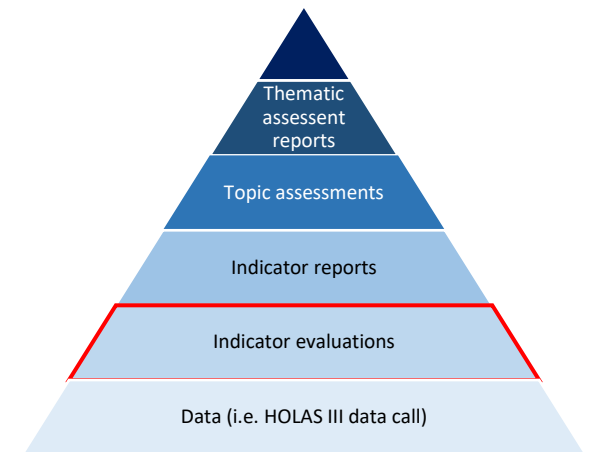
- endorse the shift of the indicator from pre-core indicator to core indicator status for use in HOLAS III, and to forward it to HOD for approval;
- endorse the methodology and the threshold value setting approach, including any other specific requests defined within the document;
 - endorse the methodology in the indicator for application in HOLAS III
 - endorse the threshold value setting in the indicator
- endorse the change of the indicator name to “Cumulative impact from physical pressures on benthic biotopes”.

**NOTE: Threshold value proposals also included in HOD 61 process.*



State of the soft-bottom macrofauna community

- **State of the soft-bottom macrofauna community - Document 3J.24**
- Scale of assessment – only open sea units at Scale 4
- Where permanent halocline, the indicator is only applied in areas <60m.
- Improved presentation of this aspect in relation to status assessment planned.
- Improvement related to data flows being carried out under Baltic Data Flows project.
- No new threshold values possible to develop for HOLAS III – a description of the work carried out and issues met is provided in annex.



State and Conservation - Action requested

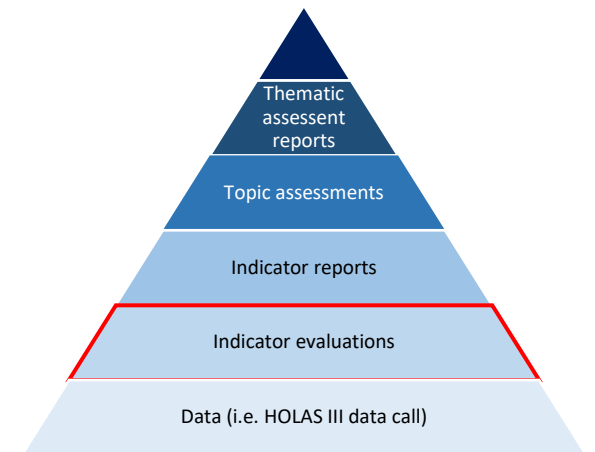
The Meeting is invited to:

- provide further technical guidance to the indicator leads and experts, including specific requests defined within the document;
- consider and endorse the proposed developments of the indicator for use in the HOLAS III assessment.



Condition of benthic habitats

- **Condition of benthic habitats** - Document 3J.25
- Possible test cases in HOLAS III.
- Scale of assessment TBC – possibly Scale 2, aligned with other benthic assessments.
- Adaptation of existing approach to align with proposal reviewed in EN BENTHIC 7-2021 and also under discussion in EU TG Seabed
- Any threshold value testing likely linked to progress under TG Seabed.



State and Conservation - Action requested

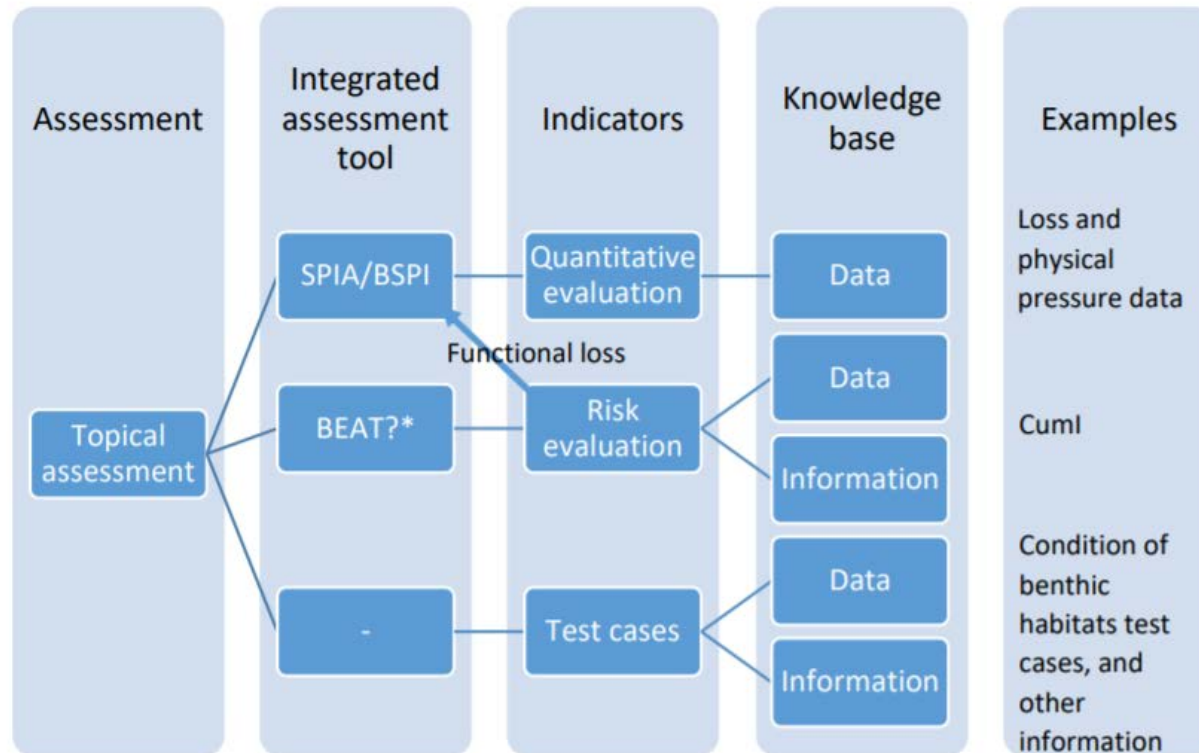
The Meeting is invited to:

- provide further technical guidance to the indicator leads and experts, including specific requests defined within the document;
 - endorse the proposed approach to adapt the existing methodology of the Condition of benthic habitats indicator to be aligned with a recent proposal under EN BENTHIC and EU TG Seabed with a view to evaluating the approach and developing potential test cases for inclusion in the HOLAS III thematic assessment of biodiversity.
- consider and endorse the proposed developments of the indicator for use in the HOLAS III assessment

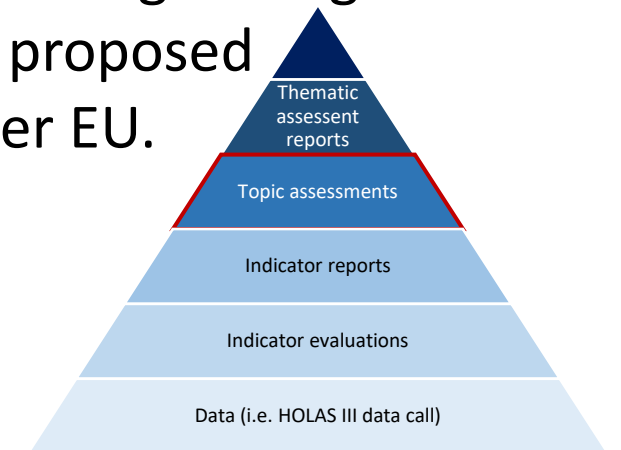


Assessment of benthic habitats

- **Assessment of benthic habitats - Document 3J.26**
- Major components: 1) loss and physical pressure data, 2) CumI (see doc 3J-23), 3) possible test cases and adaptation of Condition of benthic habitats indicator.



- Incorporation of other relevant information/evaluations under 'condition' including testing towards draft proposed approach under EU.



State and Conservation - Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- consider and endorse the proposed approach for assessing benthic habitats in the HOLAS III assessment.

